

service and contributions to the delta region and the State of Mississippi.

Organized in 1935, Delta Council plays an important role in uniting the agricultural, business, and economic development leadership to solve problems and promote opportunities in the Mississippi Delta region, which includes eighteen counties in northwest Mississippi.

Mr. Litton has put in a strong performance as Delta Council president. His tenure as council president concludes as we are crafting a new, long-term Farm Bill, which will establish Federal policies for American agriculture and other important areas including conservation, agricultural research, and nutrition. Given this bill's importance to the delta's economy, I have appreciated Mr. Litton's advice and counsel related to serving the interests of our State. His input over the past year will contribute to the overall success of this endeavor.

In addition to his role as President of Delta Council, Mr. Litton is the President of Wade Incorporated in Greenwood, MS, which serves as the John Deere equipment dealership in many counties in the delta. He is also director of the Bank of Commerce. Some of his previous leadership positions include Chairman of the Greenwood Utility Commission and President of Delta Wildlife. He has been a recipient of the Silver Beaver Award from the Boy Scouts of America.

Born in New Hampshire, Mr. Litton moved to Greenwood, MS and earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi. As a Mississippian, Mr. Litton has demonstrated leadership and dedication to improving the quality of life in the delta and the entire State. I commend Bill Litton for his service to Mississippi, and share this appreciation with his wife Ann, and their three children Gerard, Powell, and Wade.●

TRIBUTE TO SYLVIA MEDINA

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, my colleague Senator JIM RISCH joins me today in recognizing the significant accomplishments of Sylvia Medina, who is retiring as president & chief executive officer of North Wind, Inc.

Sylvia is influential locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. She founded North Wind, headquartered in Idaho Falls, which provides engineering, construction and environmental services to Federal and State agencies and private industry. Through her hard work and innovation, she grew North Wind into a leading business employing more than 300 scientific, engineering, construction and professional personnel in 21 offices throughout the country. In 2009, Sylvia sold North Wind to Cook Inlet Regional, Inc., CIRI, but remained on as president and chief executive officer.

Sylvia steps in to address community needs, and she has a strong commitment to community service. She has

supported youth and education programs, the arts and environmental conservation efforts. She was also instrumental in raising money for the construction of an animal shelter and dog park. In addition, Sylvia has served in leadership roles for several local and national organizations that include the Idaho State University Foundation, Holy Rosary School, Women Impacting Public Policy, Green Kids Inc., Grow Idaho Falls, Idaho Falls Symphony, the Snake River Animal Shelter, LLC and the Institute for Economic Empowerment of Women.

Sylvia's strong leadership and dedication have been recognized through awards and her selection to assist with important initiatives. For example, she was appointed by Governor Butch Otter to the Leadership in Nuclear Energy Commission. Among her numerous honors, the U.S. Small Business Administration recognized Sylvia as a Small Business Person of the Year in 2008. In 2009, she received the Latina Women Entrepreneur of the Year Award from the Anna Maria Aras Memorial Business Fund and a Torch Award from the Better Business Bureau.

Sylvia leads by example and demonstrates a constant commitment to integrity and bettering the community. It has been great to work with Sylvia. Sylvia, your expertise and insight on small business issues have been valuable and greatly appreciated, and we look forward to continuing to work with you on future joint efforts. We hope that your retirement from North Wind provides you deserved time with your family, including your husband and three children, and your many friends. Thank you, Sylvia, for your hard work and exemplary service.●

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM LEE RICH

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor William Lee Rich, a career Navy man. Bill, on behalf of all Montanans and all Americans, I stand to say "thank you" for your service to this Nation.

It is my honor to share the story of Bill Rich's service in the U.S. Navy, because no story of heroism should ever fall through the cracks.

Bill was born in Jamestown, NY in 1947. After moving around the country with his family, he graduated from Spring Valley High School in New York and enlisted with the U.S. Navy in Poughkeepsie in 1966.

Bill trained with the Seabees in Davisville, RI before transferring to Mobile Construction Battalion 21 at Seabee Headquarters in Gulfport, MS. From there he was deployed to Phu Bai with M-C-B 21, just south of Hue City in Vietnam. While in Vietnam, Bill's unit was responsible for transporting South Vietnamese refugees out of Hue.

In February 1968, his unit saw heavy action during the Tet Counter Offensive. They were responsible for trans-

porting a group of South Vietnamese out of Hue to the refuge center at Phu Bai. It was for their time in Hue that the M-C-B 21 received the Presidential Unit Citation. Bill also earned his Combat Action Ribbon.

Bill's deployment ended after 9 months, and his unit returned to Gulfport, MS before going back to Vietnam, this time to Camp Eagle in the Gia Lai Province. During his 8 months at Camp Eagle, Bill worked on various construction and electrical projects, both around the camp and in Hue. He also worked with the American-Vietnamese Civic Action Program to help construct engineering projects in the region.

After his two tours in Vietnam, Bill transferred to Naval Reserve Construction Battalion 19 for 4 years before returning to active duty.

Back with the Seabees, Bill was assigned to Italy and New Zealand before spending a year in Antarctica as part of Operation Deep Freeze. He was then assigned to Harold E. Holt station in Australia where he married his wife, Debby, a Helena native.

From Australia, Bill went to Winter Harbor, ME and then to M-C-B 74 in Gulfport. He deployed from Gulfport to Japan and Puerto Rico. From battalion he went to Manama, Bahrain in the Persian Gulf as a contract inspector.

From Bahrain, Bill went to the Naval Headquarters in London, England for 4 years where his daughter Mariah was born.

Bill's last assignment was part of a five-man active duty staff for Reserve Construction Battalion 13 at Camp Smith, Peekskill, NY. Before he retired, Bill received both the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross and the Long and Faithful Service Medal.

Upon his retirement, he received both the Navy and Army Achievement Medals. Bill retired with the rank of E-6 Construction Electrician First Class.

Bill transferred to Fleet Reserve and retired after a 30-year naval career.

Petty Officer Bill Rich moved to Helena to start his new life with his wife and daughter. He currently works for the State of Montana Department of Military Affairs here at Fort Harrison as an electrician.

After his service, Bill never received all of the medals he earned from the Navy.

Earlier this month, in the presence of his friends and family, it was my honor to finally present to Bill his Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960 Device, Navy Expert Rifle Medal with Three Bronze Stars, Navy Expert Pistol Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, and his Navy & Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon with One Silver and Four Bronze Stars.

It was also my honor to present the Antarctica Service Medal with Bronze Clasp, the Vietnam Service Medal with One Silver and Two Bronze Stars, the Navy Good Conduct Medal with Four Bronze Stars, the Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal with One Bronze Star.

Earlier this month I also presented to Bill: the Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon with one Bronze Star, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation with One Bronze Star.

These decorations are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism. Sacrifice. And dedication to service.

These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful nation.●

EARTH DAY

● Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, on April 22, 1970—after years of planning—Earth Day activities stretched from college campuses, to city parks, to community halls across the country.

The landscape has changed since students, activists, and environmentalists celebrated the first Earth Day. That citizen call to action spurred a new season of environmental protections that have improved the health of our Nation's air, lands, rivers, and the Great Lakes.

Just several decades ago, polluted air and water threatened the public health and safety of our Nation. The Cuyahoga River in Cleveland had caught on fire and oil spills marred the beaches of Santa Barbara.

These catastrophic events served as catalysts that established the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, passed the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, and formed a public and political consciousness of the need to safeguard our environment.

Today, the Cuyahoga River—44 years after the fire—is cleaner and healthier, more than 60 different fish species are thriving, and countless families are again enjoying its natural beauty.

Today, Earth Day is celebrated around the world.

Now communities across Ohio and the Nation are spurring on the next generation of environmental innovation.

Seeds planted in places such as Oregon, OH—a city just east of Toledo in northwest Ohio—are beginning to grow.

To reduce energy costs, the Oregon City School District partnered with the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority to transition away from traditional electricity to wind and solar power. Oregon City Schools set up wind turbines at Clay High School and Eisenhower Middle School. They installed solar panels on the roofs of Jerusalem and Starr Elementary Schools. And these innovative investments have paid off. In just 10 days in October, Clay Campus's wind turbine, Power Wind 56, produced 149 percent of campus energy needs. All computers, all lights, all kitchen activity, and fans on Clay Campus are now wind-powered. This includes the administration building, bus garage, and maintenance building at the stadium. Besides saving on energy costs, as of March 21, the school district is producing 800 fewer tons of car-

bon dioxide. This means less acid rain-causing sulfur dioxide and nitrous oxide going into the air.

This innovation and activism marks tremendous progress toward a more sustainable environment.

If we fail to protect our natural resources, we risk the health of citizens, the viability of our coastal areas, and the productivity of our State's farms, forests, and fisheries. We risk our long-term economic and national security. Yet we know that choosing between economic growth and environmental protections is a false choice.

Despite our population growing by 50 percent in the past 40 years and the number of cars on the road having doubled over that same time, our air is now 60 percent cleaner than at the time of the first Earth Day in 1970.

Done right, our Nation can become energy independent, improve its global competitiveness, and create new jobs and technologies for our workforce. As we plant the seeds for economic growth—for new jobs in new industries—we are also planting the seeds for a cleaner, more sustainable environment.

The students and parents of the Oregon City School District are a reminder that taking steps to protect our air and water is something that we do every day, not just on April 22.

Earth Day reminds us of our ability and our history of innovation and perseverance to protect our environment for current and future generations.●

TRIBUTE TO EARL HOLDING

● Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to pay special tribute to a man I have admired for many years, Earl Holding. Sadly, Earl passed away April 19, 2013 leaving behind a lasting legacy that garnered the respect of many throughout our State and Nation.

Earl was a Utah icon—a businessman who reached the highest echelons of the business world—yet spent time to help people from all walks of life, and in many pursuits and interests. His work ethic is legendary. From a young age, Earl put in long days at whatever business he pursued, and he was truly an example of someone who wasn't afraid to roll up his sleeves and get his hands dirty—right along with his employees.

In 1949 Earl married his life's partner and eternal sweetheart, Carol Orme. Their marriage was a testament to their partnership as companions—at work and at home. Carol was almost always found at the side of Earl working the land, running hotels, and raising children. They are the proud parents of three children and twelve grandchildren whom they deeply love.

Earl's strength as a business leader has been witnessed by many employees he tutored and led in many successful and important companies including the Little America and Grand America hotels, the Snowbasin Ski Resort, and Sinclair Oil.

In the 1990s Earl was a driving force in helping to bring the Winter Olympic Games to Salt Lake City. His willingness to build world-class facilities to help stage the games cannot be overlooked as one of the key factors in the utmost success of the 2002 Winter Olympics. His contributions will never be forgotten.

Earl and Carol loved the land and enjoyed spending time at their ranches or property throughout the West. He loved to hike, bike, fish, or just enjoy nature in our wonderful part of the world. He had a great reverence for the beauty of our country and always sought to build edifices that paid tribute to that splendor.

Utah and our Nation lost a truly great business leader and giant of a man when Earl left this earthly existence. I know that many people will truly miss his strength, leadership, and commitment to excellence. I will miss all of those things, but I will also miss a cherished friend. I am grateful for the relationship Earl and I have enjoyed for many years and the support and wisdom he always shared.

Elaine and I convey our deepest sympathies to Carol and their family. May our Heavenly Father bless them with peace and comfort at this time. The contributions and impact Earl made on his family, his community, Utah and our Nation will be felt and appreciated for generations to come.●

RECOGNIZING EXCEPTIONAL NEVADA MOTHERS

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Mrs. Zan Peterson Hyer, who has been recognized as the 2013 Nevada Mother of the Year, and Mrs. Montsarrat Wadsworth for being named the 2013 Nevada Young Mother of the Year. These two outstanding mothers have been honored for their commitment to strengthening the moral and spiritual foundations of the family and home.

These exceptional Nevada mothers have received this designation from the American Mothers, Inc. of Nevada, a nonprofit interfaith organization dedicated to honoring motherhood while offering support to mothers in the State of Nevada. American Mothers, Inc. is the official sponsor of Mother's Day and the Mother of the Year.

As a mother of five children and four grandchildren, Mrs. Hyer has demonstrated the great responsibility of motherhood and dedication to living and teaching her children outstanding qualities, such as love, understanding, courage, service, and compassion. As a recipient of this award, Mrs. Hyer will help deliver this message about motherhood to community organizations in Southern Nevada and throughout the State. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors and congratulate her on this well-deserved award.

Mrs. Wadsworth is also a devoted and honorable mother. She and her husband are raising 10 children in